



PANAMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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FIRST INTERSECTORAL MEETING ON THE
HEALTH OF MAN IN THE AMERICAS

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At its 72nd Meeting, held in July 1974, the Executive Committee approved the following Resolution V:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Taking into account the goals set forth in Official Document 118: Ten-year Health Plan for the Americas, Final Report of the III Special Meeting of Ministers of Health of the Americas;

Bearing in mind that the population which today lacks the minimum coverage of health services proposed in the Plan is the very population exposed to avoidable risk of illness and death for the want of similar minimum coverage in other social sectors such as employment, social security, housing, education, and nutrition;

Considering that the Governments should, during the present decade, make every effort to attain the highest level of health for the Americas, and that this makes it urgently necessary to promote a coordinated intersectoral approach and use of resources and the concentration of efforts in the most vulnerable sectors of the population, as a high priority measure designed to ensure the physical, mental, and social well-being of the peoples of the Region; and

Having duly noted the suggestions made during the discussion of the topic,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference that, bearing in mind Official Document 118, it consider the possibility of convening a technical "Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas," with a view to facilitating intersectoral coordination and achieving the fulfillment of the goals laid down for the health sector during the decade, and that to that end the Conference request the Director:

- (a) To propose a date, an agenda, and program of sessions for the Meeting in question, and

- (b) To report to the Conference on the administrative and financial implications of this proposal, so that consideration may be given by the Conference to the possibility of including such a Meeting in the Program and Budget Estimates of PAHO for 1975.

2. To take note of the offer by the Government of the Republic of Argentina that this Meeting be held in the city of Buenos Aires, and to place the offer before the Conference for its consideration.

1. BACKGROUND

The subject matter of this resolution of the Executive Committee has been a concern of the countries for more than a decade. Among ongoing programs that involve intersectoral integration are the following: the formal recognition of the interrelationship with the educational sector, which finds expression in a variety of activities; the attention given to preinvestment programs, for which intersectoral integration is a prerequisite; work in the field of the integrated planning of rural development, undertaken by CEPIS; the efforts to develop vegetable protein mixtures, undertaken in conjunction with the agricultural sector; regional planning programs; investment programming; the participation of the health sector in the integrated development of rural areas, for example, the Alto de Chiapas program in Mexico; the development of planning processes, among which mention must be made of the program being carried out in the Grita-Torbes region, in conjunction with the Government of Venezuela, ILPES, and the Pan American Health Planning Program; the participation of the health sector in the study and planning of river basins and in projects such as the highway linking Central America to South America; the assistance given by PAHO to the ministries of health of the countries of the Andean Group to facilitate their integration using an intersectoral approach; the annual meetings of the ministers of agriculture to promote foot-and-mouth disease and zoonoses control programs; and the seminars held to discuss the problems inherent in the definition of food and nutrition policies. In all these programs, PAHO has, of course, been active in providing advisory services and support.

As a result, in part, of these and other similar efforts in the Region in the last 15 years, there is now a clearly felt need for development problems to be tackled, using an intersectoral and therefore an interdisciplinary approach. Resolution V of the Executive Committee clearly reflects this need, and has the advantage of providing the continental framework the idea needs for its proper formulation and implementation.

The United Nations has also directed its attention to this subject in a series of activities aimed at defining a "unified approach" for the analysis and planning of development. Resolution V of the Executive Committee conforms fully with this policy, and the proposal to use this integrating approach in the analysis and programming of the development of the health sector makes it more concrete and specific.

2. MEETING OR PROCESS

The resolution clearly indicates the wish of the Executive Committee that the proposed meeting be held promptly. However, the timing of the meeting must be carefully considered. In effect, the task proposed is to break new ground in a territory which has so far been little explored, and the final objective presupposes that the countries will adopt the new concepts and approaches implicit in intersectoral integration. It therefore follows that the meeting will only be a success if it is preceded by comprehensive and careful preparatory work. Because of the importance and, especially, the complexity of the problems involved, it is essential to avoid precipitate action. Reference was made to this point in the discussions of the Executive Committee when it was said that the proposal made related more to a process than to a specific determinate act.

In this respect, it is the initiation of a process that entails efforts continuing over a period certainly of more than one year in which the Bureau is to carry out the instructions of the Executive Committee. A program of work has therefore been prepared whose goal is the approval in 1981 of the Third Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas 1981-1990, which will be established on the basis of the greatest possible degree of intersectoral integration. The presupposition of this program is that the countries would pledge themselves to undertake systematic and continuing efforts to establish or achieve closer coordination between the health sector and other economic and social development sectors.

This commitment entails two types of activity: (1) in the countries themselves, which would be undertaken for the purpose of achieving the above-mentioned objectives and in accordance with the procedure best suited to the conditions in each country; and (2) at the continental level, in the form of a program of meetings which would begin in 1975 with that of a top-level working group composed of representatives of the ministries of health and national planning units; it would continue in 1978 with the First Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas, and culminate in 1981 in the Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers, which would be responsible for approving the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas 1981-1990, the basis of which would be intersectoral integration.

An alternative included in this plan of work calls for the replacement of the 1975 meeting of the top-level working group by an intersectoral meeting of the type planned for 1978. This alternative is included as a matter of form in order to comply with Resolution V of the Executive Committee.

2.1 Alternative I

2.1.1 Working Group--October 1975

Following the preparatory work, which should begin immediately after the approval of the proposal, a meeting of a top-level working group would

be convened in October 1975. This working group would be composed of the ministers of health and the heads of the national planning offices and would have the following objectives:

- To define the areas in which the countries will concentrate their efforts to identify and materialize the effects of the intersectoral relations on the evolution of the health sector and the effects of this on the evolution of the remaining sectors.
- To agree upon and propose criteria and procedures for analyzing the technical, methodological, and operational problems implicit in the intersectoral relationship in each of these areas.
- To approve a work schedule for each of those areas which will be such that the results can be used as substantive material to be presented to the Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas, which would be held in 1978.

These objectives cannot be obtained without intense and careful preparatory work that will provide the participants with the information and data they will require if the discussions are to be of the necessary depth and scope and if the decisions are to be as clear and comprehensive as the objectives require. PAHO/WHO will prepare the documents that will serve as substantive support for the decisions to be adopted by the working group.

2.1.2 Participation of the Countries

In view of the great complexity of the objectives relating to the "criteria and procedures for analyzing the technical, methodological and operational problems implicit in the intersectoral relationship in each of these areas" that the top-level working group will decide upon, the document dealing with this part is expected to contain only general criteria; the specific criteria will have to be developed by the countries, both because the final responsibility for the work is unequivocally theirs and because the problems involved are really significant only when viewed against the background of specific national conditions. It must not be forgotten that what is sought are not theoretical plans but practical solutions to specific problems.

What has been said above means that the countries should prepare themselves to take an active part in the above-mentioned working group and for the responsibilities they will assume on the basis of the recommendations of the working group. Concurrently, PAHO will prepare the supporting document mentioned above.

This preparatory work in the countries is the hub of the process of renewal and change implicit in the achievement of the objective of planning the development of the health sector, taking into account intersectoral

relationships and the needs of the general development of society. It is an activity which some countries have already embarked upon and which the remainder will initiate if the XIX Pan American Sanitary Conference approves the proposal; and it must set in motion a process whose objectives are of much longer term than the Intersectoral Meeting. When viewed from the standpoint of the planning process that is taking place in the Region, those objectives may be described as follows:

First, to evaluate periodically the evolution of the sector in the light of the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas and taking into account intersectoral relationships consistent with the level of intersectoral integration achieved in each country;

Second, to program or to revise the programming of the development of the sector for the subsequent period, bearing in mind the need to strengthen intersectoral relationships.

Third, where appropriate, to program the national participation in the Third Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas that will be presented to the Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers of Health in 1981.

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, action at the country level--which is essential--should consist in an intensification of the intersectoral relations promoted by the ministry of health. These should be organized in accordance with the priority problems for the solution of which systematic support is required from other sectors, especially planning, education, agriculture and labor, social security, and public works and housing.

It is admirable to establish, if it has not yet been done, a system of regular representation of the ministry of health in the economic planning councils, boards, or secretariats.

In practice, programs and projects and their execution will be formulated and discussed at regular intersectoral meetings. The importance should be emphasized of this suggestion for the organization of the intersectoral approach in each country, in addition to its consequences for well-being. The achievement of the objectives of Resolution V approved by the Executive Committee depends on it. To that end, PAHO can provide the Governments that request it with the necessary technical assistance.

It is important to emphasize that the purpose of the above-mentioned resolution is an in-depth revision of the planning and development processes of the health sector, using operational approaches different from those now being employed. The working group proposed for 1975, and the meetings and activities that will follow, are supplementary to the essential task--which is the exclusive responsibility of the Governments--the purpose of which is to give health a more fitting and appropriate place in the varied panorama of national development, so that it may more effectively contribute to social well-being. PAHO could provide the countries that request it with the necessary technical assistance in preparing and organizing those meetings.

2.1.3 First Intersectoral Meeting--1978

In accordance with the proposals and recommendations of the top-level working group, PAHO would orient the work it is at present carrying out through its programs in the areas of planning and evaluation, manpower, environmental sanitation, regional development, studies of health sector financing, outlays and costs, zoonoses control, nutrition, etc., so as to ensure that, strengthened by the support of ad hoc working groups when circumstances so require, it will result in the preparation of supporting material for the First Intersectoral Meeting to be held in 1978.

With the material so prepared, which would be supplemented with that prepared concurrently by the countries as they strengthen and intensify the work of their own intersectoral groups, the "First Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas" would be held in 1978. It would have the following objectives:

- (a) To evaluate the progress of the sector in light of the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas 1971-1980 and bearing in mind the intersectoral relationships implicit in those goals.
- (b) To program the development of the sector and the national contribution to the Ten-Year Health Plan 1981-1990, on the basis of intersectoral integration and the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan made in 1977.

The documentation should contain the proposals of the Governments on the intersectoral activities under way, including those in which PAHO has assisted.

This meeting is expected to establish the goals and stages for the preparation of the Ten-Year Health Plan 1981-1990.

2.1.4 Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers--1981

The Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers would be held in 1981 and would have the following objectives:

- (a) To evaluate the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, 1971-1980.
- (b) To review the health plans prepared by the countries for the decade 1981-1990 on the basis of intersectoral integration.
- (c) To approve the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas 1981-1990.

2.2 Alternative II

As already noted, Alternative II only involves a single change with respect to Alternative I. This change consists in replacing the top-level working group by a First Intersectoral Meeting at which all the interested sectors would be represented.

This alternative appears to be less advantageous than the first mentioned. Because of the present state of intersectoral relationships in the countries, it is difficult in so short a period to compile the documentation required for the general purpose of Resolution V of the Executive Committee. In addition, because of the urgency, there is no guarantee of the active participation of the most representative sectors of each Government. Furthermore, there would have to be at least five representatives from each country, so that the discussions would be complicated and might not be as constructive as desirable. Finally, it would cost more than Alternative I.

INTERSECTORAL MEETING ON THE HEALTH OF MAN IN THE AMERICAS

WORK PLAN

ALTERNATIVE I

ALTERNATIVE II

Schedule	In the Countries	At Continental Level	Cost	Schedule	In the Countries	At Continental Level	Cost
1 Nov. 1974 until	Organization and development of a system of periodic intersectoral meetings responsible for evaluating and programming the evolution of the health sector in the light of the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan and the need to intensify intersectoral integration.	(1) To prepare the documentation for the meeting of the top-level working group to be held in 1975.	21,200	1 Nov. 1974 until	Organization and development of a system of periodic intersectoral meetings responsible for evaluating and programming the evolution of the health sector in the light of the goals of the Ten-Year Health Plan and the need to intensify intersectoral integration.	(1) To prepare the documentation for the First Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas, 1975.	21,200
Oct. 1975 until	This activity continues indefinitely with two medium-term goals:	(2) To hold the meeting of the top-level working group in October 1975.	65,300	Oct. 1975 until	This activity continues indefinitely with two medium-term goals:	(2) To hold the First Intersectoral Meeting in October 1975.	178,900
		(3) To prepare the material to be presented to the First Intersectoral Meeting.	(x)			(3) To prepare the material to be submitted to the Intersectoral Meeting in 1978, including the evaluation in 1977 of the Ten-Year Health Plan 1971-1980.	(x)
Oct. 1978	- To enrich the content of the discussions at the First Intersectoral Meeting.	(4) To hold the First Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas in 1978.	178,900	Oct. 1978	- To enrich the content of the discussions of the First Intersectoral Meeting.	(4) To hold the Intersectoral Meeting on the Health of Man in the Americas in 1978.	178,900
		(5) To prepare the material to be presented to the Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers in 1981, including the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan 1971-1980 and the preparation of the frame of reference for the Ten-Year Health Plan 1981-1990.	(x)			(5) To prepare the material to be presented to the Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers in 1981, including the evaluation of the Ten-Year Health Plan 1971-1980 and the preparation of the frame of reference for the Ten-Year Health Plan 1981-1990.	(x)
Oct. 1981	(6) Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers.	(6) Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers.	(x)	Oct. 1981	(6) Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers.	(6) Fourth Special Meeting of Ministers.	(x)
			Total: 265,400				Total: 379,000

(x) No cost estimates are given for these activities because they are on-going programs whose costs appear in the PAHO budget.